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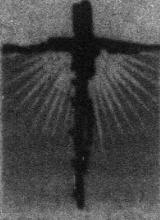
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Hawkins: health programs in jeopardy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — U.S. President Barack Obama's health care proposal would spell the end of denominational health insurance programs such as the one run by the Southern Baptist Convention's GuideStone Financial Resources, GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins says.

Speaking at the SBC Executive Committee meeting September 21, Hawkins said GuideStone, a nonprofit organization, is "closely monitoring" the congressional debate over the health care system. He acknowledged that insurance rates are "out of control" and that "something's got to be done" about it, but he expressed concern over Obama's proposals.

GuideStone isn't alone in its belief that denominational health insurance programs are in jeopardy, Hawkins said. GuideStone, he said, is part of a coalition of 32 denomination-backed retirement and health insurance programs.

"[The coalition met] about two months ago, and it was the consensus of every one of those denominations... that if this program goes through that the president wants to go through, there won't be any of us that will have a health insurance program," Hawkins said.

"You can't compete with somebody else who doesn't have to not just make a profit, but doesn't even have to break even [and] can print money and support it with your tax dollars."

Hawkins added, "I hear the president say you'll all be able to keep your insurance. The problem is [the insurance companies] that are providing it aren't going to be able to be there for you to keep it."

Hawkins called the debate over health care a "great crisis" and asked for people to pray for the situation. He also said that while health insurance premium rates have skyrocketed nationally, GuideStone's average rates have decreased six percent in the last five years. He did say there will be some increase this year.

Hawkins announced in August that he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He underwent surgery in September. "For the past many months my doctors have been monitoring my PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) counts," said Hawkins, 62. "...I had a biopsy and subsequently found out... that I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer."

The PSA blood test, one indicator of the possibility of prostate cancer, measures the level of a protein, prostate-specific antigen.

Hawkins said he and his wife Susie "are receiving this as part of God's plan for our lives and are trusting Him through it all."

"We are resting in the reality that this has not taken the Lord by surprise. Honestly, my first thought was not, 'Why me?' but 'Why not me?' Over the years I have watched and prayed with and for so many friends who took the same journey. Now, it is my turn to beat out on the anvil of personal experience these Biblical truths we all know to be real and relevant. We are abiding in His perfect peace during these days."

"We (Susie and I) will be using these days to dig deep into the Word and learn to trust in Him even more," Hawkins continued.

"The prognosis is good and hopefully we have found it early enough. We have reason to be encouraged at this point at this time."

"Finally, let me encourage all of you to get regular physical checkups and that includes your PSA exam," Hawkins wrote.

He added: "Personally, I have climbed up on top of Psalm 27:13-14 and taken my stand there... I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he will strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, upon the Lord!"

Hawkins became president of GuideStone Financial

Resources in 1997, replacing Paul Powell. GuideStone is the Southern Baptist Convention entity that provides retirement, insurance, and investment management products and services to churches, ministries, hospitals, educational, and other institutions.

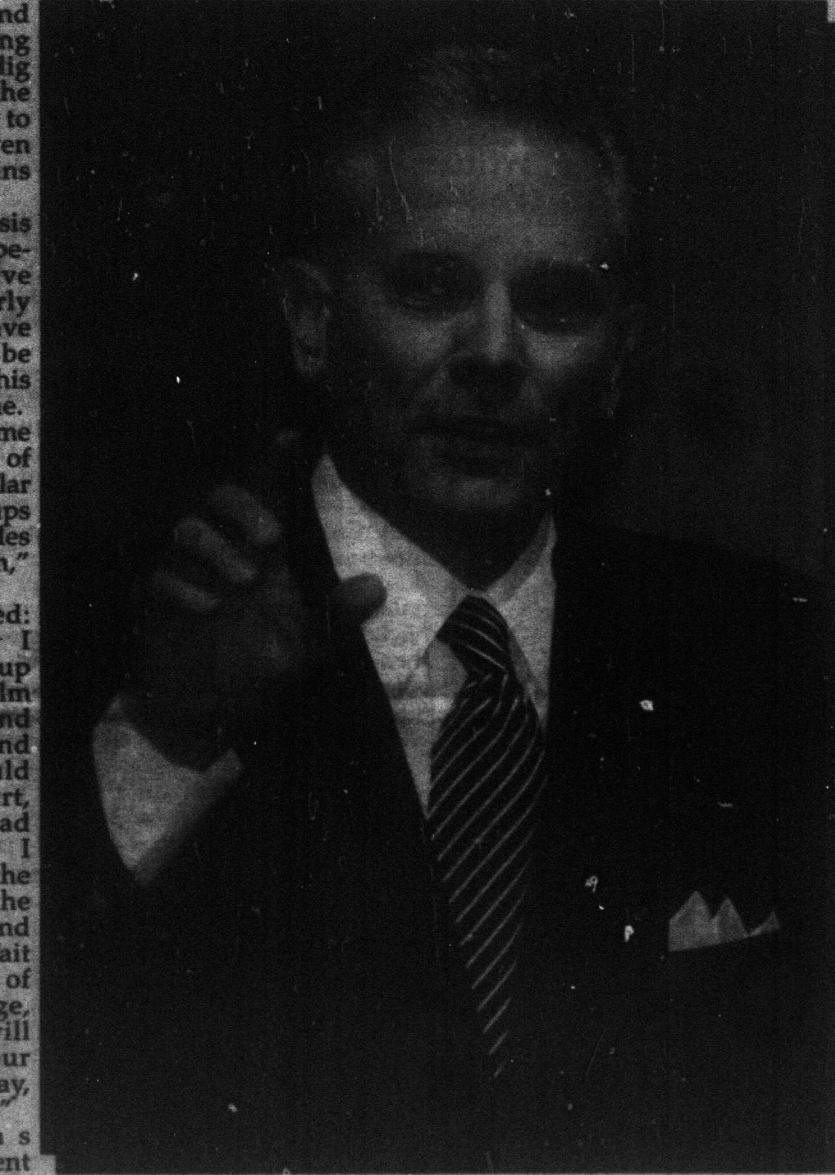
Hawkins previously was pastor of First Church in Dallas for four years and First Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for 15 years.

Hawkins' announcement follows on the heels of news of another prominent Southern Baptist's battle with prostate cancer.

"In April, after a routine checkup and subsequent biopsy, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer," said Jack Graham, former SBC president and pastor of Prestonwood Church in Plano, Texas.

"This was not what we expected to hear, but received it as a part of God's plan for my life knowing full well we can trust Him in everything."

Graham underwent successful surgery May 14, and he said physicians have assured him that his "prognosis is outstanding."



Hawkins

"After much prayer, it was my desire to keep the surgery private for a number of reasons," he said. "So, 10 days after surgery, I returned to the pulpit and a somewhat scaled-back schedule. That was a push, but God has been faithful to strengthen me."

On June 6-7, Prestonwood celebrated Graham's 20th anniversary as pastor of the church, which has more than tripled in membership since he arrived. On that weekend, a member of the church's personnel committee announced that Graham would receive a two-month sabbatical in recognition of his milestone anniversary.

Graham returned to the pulpit the following weekend before beginning his sabbatical.

"It is perfect timing to begin that sabbatical now for the continued healing of my body, soul and spirit," he stated, noting 1 Thessalonians 5:23: "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."



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Since at least the days of Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle, Hollywood has been viewed as a vast cesspool of licentious entitlement. Sexual scandals have rocked the motion picture establishment virtually from its founding, and there has been an almost constant complaint about the objectionable content of many of its products.

From the glorification of drug use to pornographic violence and the vivid, perverse representation of human sexuality, the residents of Hollywood — not the California city but the members of the movie-making industry centered there — have engaged in a nihilist separation from the rest of America in which anything goes and absolutely nothing is out of bounds.

As if that fact needed any further reinforcement, witness the reaction of many of Hollywood's elite to the arrest in Switzerland last

week of Roman Polanski, famed motion picture director and fugitive child rapist.

Polanski, who has directed such Oscar-nominated movies as *Rosemary's Baby*, *Chinatown*, and *The Pianist* (for which he won an Academy Award), pled guilty in a California court to the 1977 sexual violation of a 13-year-old girl.

A reading of the child's grand jury testimony is not for the faint-hearted. The girl describes how Polanski lured her to the palatial California estate of movie star Jack Nicholson for a putative modeling session, then plied her with alcohol and drugs before undressing her. What followed, as the young girl cried in fear and pleaded with Polanski to be allowed to go home, is humanly incomprehensible.

Born in France to Polish parents, Polanski fled to the country of his birth rather than be sentenced for his criminal

"THIS EXPLAINS IT—THEY REFUSED TO TURN OFF THE T.V.
SUCH A FOOLISH DECISION!"



act in the U.S. The French government refused to extradite him.

After jet setting across the globe for nearly three decades as the darling of the motion picture elite, he was finally arrested last week on an international warrant when he landed in Switzerland to attend a film festival. As if to prove the point once again, he was to have received the film festival's highest award for lifetime achievement, despite his status as a convicted child rapist.

Hollywood's elites swung into high dudgeon. Actress Debra Winger (*An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Terms of Endearment*) demanded Polanski's immediate release from Swiss detention.

"We hope today this latest order will be dropped. It is based on a three-decade-old case that is all but dead but

for minor technicalities," Winger said. "We stand by and wait for his release and his next masterwork."

Some of Hollywood's top names have signed a petition pressing for Polanski's release, including fellow directors Martin Scorsese (*Taxi Driver*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*), Michael Mann (*Miami Vice*, *The Insider*), David Lynch (*The Elephant Man*, *Blue Velvet*), Darren Aronofsky (*The Wrestler*), Terry Gilliam (*Time Bandits*, *Brazil*), Julian Schnabel (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*), Alejandro González Iñárritu (*21 Grams*, *Babel*), Walter Salles (*The Motorcycle Diaries*), Jonathan Demme (*The Silence of the Lambs*, *Philadelphia*) and producer Harvey Weinstein (*Pulp Fiction*, *The Cider House Rules*).

Weinstein has said he is "calling on every film-maker we can to help fix this terrible situation."

Likely the most pathetic petition signer of all, however, is Woody Allen (*Annie Hall*, *Hannah and Her Sisters*). The famously neurotic director came under heavy criticism some years back for having sex with and eventually marrying the young, adopted daughter of his then-lover, Mia Farrow.

Outspoken feminist Whoopi Goldberg (*The Color Purple*, *Sister Act*) even took Polanski's side over the helpless 13-year-old girl. "I know it wasn't 'rape-rape,'" Goldberg said on her network television show, *The View*. "It was something else but I don't believe it was 'rape-rape.'"

In the real world out here in flyover country, child rape is child rape — but not inside the Hollywood bubble. The argument seems to be that being a famous Hollywood "artist" exempts one from all legal and moral limitations.

Too many of us put these people on a pedestal, just because they can direct or produce or act in an entertainment product that often isn't all that entertaining. They take us for intellectual dullards, and perhaps we are.

After all, we still hand our money over to them by the billions.

GUEST OPINION:

Hurtling toward cashless society

By Michael Weeks, pastor
Pleasant Hill Church
Olive Branch

China and France have begun to call for a one world currency. Some economists would like to eliminate cash in order to have greater control over the global economy. In the current global recession, people are looking for ways to conduct business in a more secure manner.

Technology is advancing rapidly. There is a move to incorporate smart cards which have our financial and personal information. The smart cards will be the method of currency. When you go to the doctor, it will also have your medical information on it.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 set aside approximately \$19 billion for physicians to adopt electronic medical record systems. There are strict criteria to qualify for funds. The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) will be the authority for this initiative. This means that the government will have access to all of your medical records.

You may wonder why this is significant. In Revelation, it talks about how people who live during the tribulation period must have the mark of the beast in

order to buy or sell goods. This would mean there is no currency. The Antichrist, who will not be revealed until the tribulation period, will have control over all financial transactions.

I don't know when this will happen. I just know that in order to control the global economy, there must be a system in place. A cashless society would be a system which the Antichrist could manipulate to control people around the world. You could call this a preparation for the Antichrist.

This is one of many events which lead us to conclude that the Lord's return is near. No one knows the day or hour when Jesus will return for His church. However, as the old hymn states, "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes."

Evangelism should be our number one priority. This means that not only the pastor but also the person in the pew must be a witness for Jesus. He is coming soon. Are you ready? Are your family members ready? Are your friends?

Or, are you going to be left behind?

Ganesha has trouble removing own obstacles

INDIA (BP and local reports) — The Hindu god who removes obstacles was no match for a tree limb.

Southern Baptist representatives Brendan and Alyson Strizek (names changed for security reasons) watched from a balcony as celebrating Hindus tried to navigate a trailer-mounted image of Ganesha through a narrow alley. A low tree limb soon blocked the 10-foot idol's progress. The crowd, unable to back the trailer out of the alley, tried in vain to sever the tree limb so the idol could proceed.

"It took them about 45 minutes to figure out what to do," Brendan Strizek said. Finally, a child removed the top of the makeshift temple covering Ganesha, barely giving the idol enough room to pass under the tree limb en route to a time of worshipping the idol also known by the names Ganapati and Ganesh.

"If that's not the perfect picture," Alyson Strizek said. "They're expecting this god to remove obstacles in their lives, but he can't even remove a tree limb."

Hindus widely revere the elephant-headed Ganesha as the god of wisdom, prosperity, and good fortune. He is the remover of obstacles in their lives and devotees invoke Ganesha's name to bring success to any venture.

On Ganesha's palm is the depiction of a swastika, which was considered a sign of order and stability for 4,500 years before being appropriated by the Nazis prior to World War II as a symbol of their political party.

The Strizeks said they feel a deep burden for the people they see worshipping a god that cannot save them.

"There's a lot of disappointment that they would devote so much of themselves, so much of their time and money to something that is just clay," Brendan Strizek said. "It's obvious it's not living, and there is no response back from this clay statue — but they are still devoted to it."

Each fall, Hindu families and communities celebrate the Ganesha Chaturthi festival in Ganesha's honor, crafting idols in Ganesha's image from clay and plaster. Many compete to have the largest, most ornate Ganesha idol possible, with some communities pooling their resources to make 30-foot statues.

Hindus take the idols into their homes for up to 10 days, where they follow a set of rituals in caring for and worshipping the idols.

"They provide food for it when it's in the home, and they treat it like it's a person," Brendan Strizek said.

On the 11th day of the festival, with great fanfare and celebration, the Hindus take the Ganesha idols to rivers, lakes, or the ocean where they submerge and leave them to symbolize the cycle of creation and destruction in nature.

In August, the Strizeks and their children attended a submersion festival where worshippers performed rituals, and celebrated and praised Ganesha before submerging the idols in water.

"When we went, basically there would be big groups of young guys dancing, celebrating and playing music."



IDOL REVERED — Families and communities in India celebrate a festival for the Hindu god Ganesha, crafting idols in Ganesha's image from clay and plaster to seek blessings of wisdom and good fortune. (BP photo)

Brendan Strizek said. "They were very proud of their idols."

Alyson Strizek added, "A lot of it is with the intention of receiving blessings from Ganesha."

Brendan Strizek believes that the best way to reach Hindus for Christ is not by condemning their practices but by connecting with them as human beings, showing interest in their lives.

"I think before we have the opportunity to share verbally, we need to show we care about this person," Strizek said. "Not just to share and that's it, but I want to care about this person because God cares about this person. We need to show the love of Christ in our actions, so that those we want to tell about Jesus will receive us."

Through learning about the Ganesha festival, Strizek believes he has gained a way to open up spiritual topics in conversations with Hindus.

"They will tell me about things they do for the Ganesha festival. Then I will tell them, 'As followers of Jesus, this is what we do,'" he said. "I tell them, 'This is what the Bible says. This is who Jesus is, and this is what we do to worship Him.'"

Lal Satish (name changed for security reasons) agrees with the Strizeks that the best

way to tell Hindus about God is to first understand them. A former Hindu who recently decided to follow Jesus, he believes that believers in Christ must not speak to Hindus with condemnation.

"This is where Christians should be very careful," Satish said. "You can't tell them right off that they are worshipping false gods, because the mob will become ferocious. It should be within a certain framework."

Satish urges Christians to model Jesus first if they want Hindus to see Him. "If you want to talk about Jesus, you must be Jesus here," he said. "You must show all the qualities of Jesus, His love, His affection, His tolerance. If Jesus is reflected in any person who is a leader, all people will be drawn toward him, and they will find Jesus."

As he reflected on those who worship idols as he formerly did, Satish urged Christians to open their eyes to what is happening in his country.

Editor's note: To learn more about Hindu festivals in India, visit www.go2southasia.org/l_festival_hindu.html. For a tract in English, Hindi, Bengali, and French to print and share with Hindu friends, go to www.go2southasia.org/printables.html.

Hindu festivals

INDIA (BP) — October's Hindu festivals in India are full of celebration, music, food, and dancing, reports Southern Baptist worker Gene Yauss (name changed for security reasons). "It is at this time that I am asking you to pray specifically for the people who have enjoyed many days of festivity and are now returning to normal life," Yauss urges, directing his words to Southern Baptists and other evangelicals who yearn for the Gospel to spread across India. October is filled with Hindu festivals:

- Oct. 2 — Gandhi Jayanti: Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), India's "Father of the Nation."
- Oct. 3 — Lakshmi Puja: Lakshmi is the household goddess of most Hindu families, and a favorite of women.
- Oct. 4 — Valmiki Jayanti: Maharishi Valmiki, author of the great Indian epic Ramayana, was a Hindu sage who lived around the beginning of the first millennium B.C.
- Oct. 8 — Karwa Chauth: Karwa Chauth. Ritual of fasting observed by married Hindu women seeking the longevity, well-being, and prosperity of their husbands.
- Oct. 17 — Diwali: Deepawali or Diwali. Festival of lights. Largest festival.
- Oct. 17 — Kali Puja: Kali has fiercest features amongst all the world's deities.
- Oct. 19 — Bhai Dooj / Bhai Phota / Bhav-Bij: Ritual is performed by the sister who religiously fasts until she applies a mark on her brother's forehead, offers him sweets and gifts, and prays for his long and healthy life.

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi Baptists lead the Southern Baptist Convention in distributing Bibles during the Celebrate Jesus 2000 Bible distribution project, with over 468,000 Bibles distributed or ordered.

20 years ago

Kentucky's Zion Association votes 92-20 to withdraw fellowship from First Church, Corbin, because of the church's practice of electing and ordaining women deacons. "We hold no ill will," says John Dunaway, pastor, and former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

30 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board elects longtime Miss. pastor Joe T. Odle as editor of The Baptist Record during their annual business session.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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OCTOBER 8, 2009

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No. 40



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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ZNG, HRVU RPRQ REE
NTNKINHQ, RTA
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IXEQ: XY PNEE PU OUT-
AUO HZU BREFUX YC
YIO ENJX.

ZYXUR CYIOHUUT: HPY

Clue: I = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Thirty-Nine: Eight



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CASH FOR CLUNKERS

In the summer of 2009, the federal government implemented the Cash for Clunkers program as a part of the stimulus package to try to get our economy moving again and in particular the car industry. The goal was actually two-fold. One was to sell more cars to help the industry, and the other goal was to get old, gas guzzling, dilapidated cars off the road. If you had a car that qualified, you would get somewhere between \$3500 and \$4500 off the price of your purchase. The U.S. Treasury supplied the money. In other words, the kind and thoughtful taxpayers supplied it.

According to most accounts, the program was fairly successful. Some even thought that it was very successful. Initially, about a billion dollars was earmarked for the program and then, because so many people were trading in their clunkers, they had to raise the ceiling another billion or so. Now I must confess I tried to understand the program but I could never quite comprehend what we were actually doing. In reality, I understood what we were doing, but I just did not understand why we were doing it and what we were doing after we did it. However, if the federal government is looking for ways to inject money into the economy and to throw money into something, I do not understand why we just limited it to the car industry. I have some areas that I think could be stimulated that maybe would even be more helpful than the Cash for Clunkers program.

For one, I propose that there be a Cash for Clocks program. It would take a lot of unneeded clocks and watches off arms and down from the walls. While I am aware of the need for people being on schedule and other needs and responsibilities that may be in life, I am



Directions

Jin Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

even more aware of the fact that when we come to worship that we need to meet with God. If God wants to meet with us in a timeframe that lasts longer than 59 and 1/2 minutes, so be it. I know that the music can go too long. I know that preachers like me can preach too long. I also know that the goal of biblical worship is not to keep it in the boundaries of 60 minutes.

While the length of my preaching may have earned an undeserved reputation for being long, on the other hand I recognize that I typically do not do five-minute devotions either. I can even trade in some of my clocks and watches that have been given to me by the churches that I have pastored through the years. The very first church I pastored gave me a brand new watch the first Christmas I was there. The last church I pastored gave me a watch on my last day. In between there were others who felt obligated to give me a timepiece. By the same token, while I may not have paid attention to those mechanical mechanisms, I sought and often did have the privilege of leading the congregation as we had an encounter together with God.

It is doubtful that you can enjoy anything if, when you go there, the only thing about which you are concerned is getting out of there. It does not matter if it is a ballgame, a movie, or an evening with your grandkids. It will probably be miserable because the meaningful things are forgotten about and the insignificant things become priority — mainly time. So maybe we can get the government to have a Cash for Clocks deal, and we could all be better off.

A second stimulus idea that I had was a Cash for Clergy program. I'm not talking about just going around passing out money to our preachers, but I am thinking about those wonderful pastors who have served our churches for years and are in that strange dilemma of life where they need to cut back, curtail, or maybe even retire and are in no way able to do that. Their churches have not supported them adequately, and they have not participated in the retirement program sufficiently to even keep them alive.

The good news is that through our Convention, we do have a means of helping retired pastors or the widows of deceased pastors in some supplement to their retirement income. As a result, they are able to keep body and soul together and keep moving. It seems to me that this would be a great idea to stimulate the economy. If the government just wanted to set aside a few billion dollars, they could give some Cash for Clergy. If the age and stage of the clergy qualified, it would be very supportive of them during these years when they cannot go as much and work as hard.

One last stimulus idea is Cash for the Cranky program. Wouldn't it be wonderful if some folks who are just cranky about everything and who gripe, fuss,

and complain about everything that goes on in the church could be traded in at the marketplace? Maybe it would not even require cash; it would just be a trade-in for a new spirit, a new sweeter attitude, and a new positive heart for the Lord. Some things money cannot buy, but it would be extremely helpful to have a special program and a trade-in for cranky folks. Now honestly I do not have anybody in mind. I see no face in my imagery, and I have no name associated with my thought but my goodness, I have heard from churches across our state that have folks in them who are just creating a problem for everybody because of their cranky attitude. Maybe they are just visiting. I do not know. Maybe they are from another state. I am not qualified to say. Maybe they do not know the Lord, or maybe they just were assigned to the wrong church. All they do is see the negatives and complain about what is happening, so perhaps a Cash for the Cranky program is in order.

Possibly even a better thing than just trading folks in would be for all of us to trade-in our ornery selves to get a new, upgraded and Christ-enveloped spirit. That would be better than just getting rid of folks, and it would make a difference in our churches. Well, maybe you have your own Cash for Ideas, which like mine will never come to fruition, but for sure if we could just trade up and trade in to the spirit of God taking over in our hearts, it would all be well worth it.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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CLARK AUCTIONS CAN SELL YOUR real estate, business or personal estate items in 30 days. Nick Clark, R.E. Broker/Auctioneer, 601-317-2536, #1145.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

October 8, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

BSU Campus Highlights

Matthew Middlecamp — BSU Director



GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Perkinston

One afternoon, my wife and I went to eat lunch with three students. Two of these students are very active in BSU and their local church; the other is a non-believer. We all sat down to eat and prayed before doing so. Two of the guys we were with decided to play the "thumbs up" game to see who gets to pray. We all played along and the friend who is not a believer was the last to place his thumbs on the table, and won the privilege to pray! He was very adamant about not praying. The student looked at me and said, "I don't know how to pray." I said OK, repeat after me. "God, thank you for this food that you provided for us.

Thank you for the time we get to hang out as friends. In Jesus name, Amen." I loved this because it gave me a chance to explain what prayer is, the purpose of prayer, who we pray to and allowed him to experience prayer. Please continue to pray for this student as I continue to develop our relationship and that God would continue to draw him to Himself.

Justin Busby — BSU Director



MERIDIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Meridian

There are times in ministry when the light goes on with one or more of your students. It is those moments that make the ministry fun. In July I had one of those moments while teaching a seminary extension certificate class called "Everyday Believers and Church Planting." Seven of our students took the class over the summer, and each was challenged by the Biblical concept that every believer is called to be part of God's mission to bring every nation and tongue back to worship Him. It was wonderful to sit and discuss with these students God's mission, and how each of them fit into that mission in some way. But for me the highlight of the course was the last night when we did a brief overview of the entire study and one of our students said, "I think every Christian should go through this study, so they will understand what we are supposed to be doing. And every person on BSU leadership needs to know these things as well, so we can reach our campus." The truth in this study is one that Christians know, but sometimes we need to hear again ... for us to fully understand how we fit in the Mission of God.

Lloyd Lunceford — BSU Director



GULF COAST SOUTHERN MISS, Hattiesburg

The world came to us. As we were preparing for our Survival weekend, we decided to have two family groups for international students. Our opening opportunity to meet new internationals was our hosting the orientation for 80 first time to USM international students. The following week we hosted a fellowship for 40 new students studying at our English Language Institute. Twenty of these ELI students were from Japan. Our international team and leadership team did an exceptional job of getting to know and beginning relationships with these new internationals. As registration came to a close for Survival Weekend, we had 40 international students among the 250 students involved in Survival Weekend. We expanded from two family groups to four family groups at the last minute. God is really opening so many opportunities to share Christ with this group through Coffeetalk, 12:01 lunch, a seekers Bible student for internationals, and the personal relationship and friendships among our students.

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Mississippi College

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MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Lauderdale Baptist Association Office
Marion, Miss.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25

Sky Room, Baptist Bldg.
515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, Miss.
9 a.m. - noon (for both studies)

FALL SINGLES CONFERENCE

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Saturday, October 17
FBC, Vancleave

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Music: Mark Roberts

Pianist: Steve Fields

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- No child care provided
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PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE at
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or call the church office, NLT
October 12.

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Baptist Convention Board

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December 4-5, 2009
DELTASTATE UNIVERSITY
BAPTIST STUDENT UNION
1003 W. Sunflower Rd.
Kosciusko, MS 39090
662.843.2507

Contact Kay McDonnell at 601.292.3305
or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org for information

Special Guests:
Phill Newberry
Tom Edwards
Jon Daniels

Student Minister's Retreat

November 9-11, 2009

Lake Tiak O'Knotz, Louisville, Miss.

For info: kha@mbcb.org or 601-292-3284

SATISFIESTA

WHOM HAVE I IN HEAVEN BUT YOU?
AND EARTH HAS NOTHING I DESIRE BESIDES YOU.

Psalm 73:25

YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

DECEMBER 28-29, 2009

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
CLINTON, MISS.

REGISTRATION BEGINS

CHALLENGE CATEGORIES

6th Annual State Senior Adult Evangelism Rally

February 2, 2010, from 8 - 11:45 A.M.

FBC, Biloxi

BREAKOUTS WITH: Clayton Jordan, John Patterson,
Randy Oswalt, Don Sticks, Huey Dedmon, and Daniel Hall

PREACHER: JOHN BISAGNO

Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more info:
gshows@mbcb.org, 601-292-3373 or 1-800-748-1651

Your Margaret Lackey gifts sent 55 volunteers, who were able to serve more than 50,000 meals to victims of ten disasters last year. Encourage your church to participate in the offering this Fall.



WHEREVER HE LEADS

Interim Pastor Training

Hebron BC
Grenada, November 9

9 a.m. - noon

LED BY:

Alan Woodward

Director

MBCB Pastor/Leadership Development
Department

Bruce Cappleman

Director

MBCB Church-Minister Relations
Department

For more information:
Pam May
Church-Minister
Relations
Department
601-292-3225
1-800-748-1651
or E-mail
mpmay@mbcb.org

Featuring:
Tommy Sanders
Ken Hindman
and Curt Hale

November 5-7, 2009

Memphis, TN

MERGE

A Preschool and Children's Ministry Event
for Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee

Anyone involved in ministry must become a master of merging. It is an unavoidable task ... balancing the fine points where ministry and life collide. As those of us responsible for children's ministries come together across state lines, it will be a great learning experience.

Contact Angie Boydston in the Sunday School Department
for more information: aboydstun@mbcb.org or 601-292-3294

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3204 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."

Leviticus 19:2b

World Hunger
(CAC Emphasis)
Continue to pray for the people in the Somaos and Indonesia as they suffer and deal with aftermath of devastating earthquakes. Pray for workers in the areas to be able to meet physical needs in the name of Jesus.

Several Mississippi Baptist churches have been working to renovate a building for Lakeshore Baptist Church in Cicero, NY. Pray for this effort as more money is needed to complete the renovation for this vital church plant.

Pray for three of our Southern Baptist entities. The N.B., the NAMB and the Executive Committee of the SBC are all facing changes in leadership. Pray that the right men will be led to become leaders of these great Southern Baptist entities.

Pray for representatives from Mississippi Baptists and they explore possible connections with Indiana. Several Mississippi Baptist leaders are visiting this state to find out how Mississippi can be a part of the Southern Baptist work.

Minister of Education Leader Lab, Garaway Camp and Conference Center, Clinton (SS).

13

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building, 10 a.m. [Exce. Admin].

20

Pray for 15 revival teams from Mississippi that are preparing to lead simultaneous revivals in the Northcoast Association of Ohio. Pray that their efforts will impact Ohio for the kingdom!

Pray for a new church plant in Temirtau, Kazakhstan, and its pastor, Anton, who is a Ukrainian church planter supported by Mississippi Baptists. This new plant began just last month, and is the second church started by Anton in three years.

Pray for Roscoe and Margaret Ivy of Southside Baptist Church, Aberdeen, as they travel to East Asia—October 15-30. Pray that they will be effective in aiding in agricultural work for the purpose of building relationships to share the Gospel.

This month REAP North Peru is hosting a vision conference. Seven churches have signed up to be a part of the conference and experience what God is doing in Peru. Begin praying for these churches and the personnel of the REAP North Peru team.

Milma Lee Truax of Calvary Baptist Church, Newton, is going back to Ukraine. She is in her fifth year of service there. Please pray for her ministry there and pray that she will be able to get the proper visa to stay in the country for a long period of time.

Christian Education Clinic, Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch (D&FM).

10

Pray for Longview Point Baptist Church, Hernando, as a team travels to the Middle East, October 16-25, to work with refugees. Pray for opportunities to meet physical and spiritual needs.

*Send
an MK
a card!*



NOVEMBER

12-28-05

MR. ZACHARY JOHNSON

Parents: D & D, Restricted

12-27-89

MR. LUCAS ALEXANDER

Parents: Mark & Karen
South America

12-30-91

MR. BENJAMIN AUSTIN

Parents: Arnold & Susie
South America

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Please send all to: Child's
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MBCB

WMU MK Birthdays,
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Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.



Bivo Council & Banquet during Convention

Brothers, smart ladies and friends ... we have a big day planned at the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Our council will convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2009, in the Skyroom on the 4th floor.

All Mississippi bivocational/small church MINISTERS AND THEIR WIVES are invited to a BANQUET AND DIALOGUE at 5 p.m. We will break at 6:30 to attend the Pastors Conference at First Baptist, Jackson.

Please E-mail or call Kay McDonnell (kmcdonnell@mbcb.org or 601.292.3305; 1.800.748.1651, ext. 305) to confirm your attendance.

THERE IS NO COST FOR THE MEAL. THIS EVENT IS UNDERWRITTEN BY THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD.

Seminary Extension

DISCUSSION: Pastors' Seminar
THE PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT will host a breakfast for SEMINARY EXTENSION AND ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTORS on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at 7 a.m. in the Baptist Building Chapel.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!!!

October 18

FBC
Gulfport
6 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

HOUSE TOPS

COLLEGE NEWS

- Mississippi College is hosting the Hap Hudson Homecoming 5-K race Oct. 31. Registration for the race is \$15 prior to Oct. 31 and \$20 on race day. Registration will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. on that Saturday morning. For more

information, contact Suzanne McDonough at (601) 925-7720 or visit www.mc.edu/campus/academics/kinesiology/.

- China native and new Mississippi College student Zhicheng Liang won first



2. Qiu and Liang



3. Mellado, Rowdy, and Baumel

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GaryBowlin.com 601-810-0810 or 601-276-7245



Dr. Rick Henson, co-host
Pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church
Brandon, MS 601-628-1360

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION MEETINGS

The Mississippi Alumni of Southwestern Seminary will meet during the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The alumni will meet at noon, October 27, at First Church, Jackson, Chapel West dining room. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased from Paul Blanchard, AMD for Winston Baptist Association. Send all requests to P.O. Box 867, Louisville, MS 39339. We request that all tickets be purchased in advance in order to be able to inform First Church, Jackson, of the number of meal reservations needed.

place in the Mississippi Open Table Tennis Tournament in Hattiesburg. Shown are MC team captain Ken Qiu and Liang.

- The Mississippi College equestrian team was given Rowdy, an 18-year-old thoroughbred, by Missouri owners Debbie and Barry Gaines. Shown are MC rider Sara Mellado, Rowdy, and coach Becky Baumel.

- Mississippi College is hosting a workshop for teachers Oct. 31, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., led by Chris Smith. Free. For information, call (601) 925-3412.

- Ralph T. Simmons, retired vice president for Sunbeam-Oster, will speak at the Christian Leadership Lecture October 5 at 9:30 a.m. in Smith Auditorium of William Carey University. The Christian Leadership Lecture Series features speakers who practice Christian leadership values in their personal and business lives.

- Charles Page, academic dean of the Jerusalem Institute for Biblical Exploration, will be the featured speaker at a public program at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15 at Blue Mountain College.

- Three Blue Mountain College seniors were recently awarded Church Related Vocation scholarships at the annual CRV Banquet. Ray Manning of Myrtle (second from left) and John Reid Roberts of Tupelo (second from right) received the E.R. Pinson Memorial Scholarship, and Michah Roberson of Arkabutla (cen-

ter) received the Thomas Bryant Memorial Scholarship. With the BMC students are Jim Futral (left) executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Ronald Meeks, director of church relations at BMC.

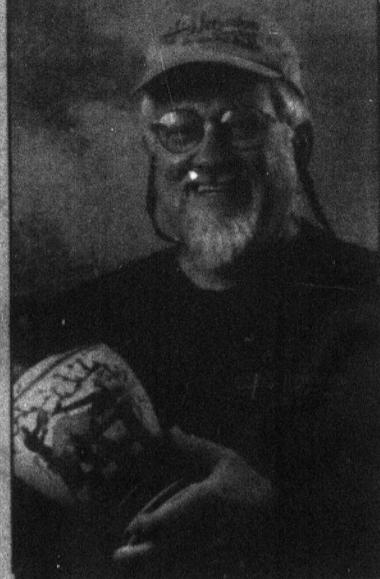
- Mississippi College's 2009 Homecoming, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, themed as "Carnival on College Street," will attract thou-

sands of alumni to the Clinton campus for Choctaws football, class reunions, a golf tournament, worship services at Provine Chapel and much more. For more information on Homecoming weekend events, contact Ross Aven III, director of alumni affairs at (601) 925-3228 or alumni affairs coordinator Lori Bobo at (601) 925-3252.

○ ○ ○



5. Simmons



6. Page



7. Blue Mountain College scholarship winners

JUST FOR THE RECORD

- Bethesda Church, Terry, is hosting a fall festival Oct. 31, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. featuring food, games, space jumps, toy walk, and cake walk.
- First Church, Laurel, is hosting a women's conference, Be Refreshed, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.; \$5 registration includes lunch; Rhonda Kelley, speaker. For reservations, call (601) 649-5710.
- Temple Church, Myrtle, will be celebrating harvest
- day Oct. 11, with special singing and praise, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., and fellowship meal at noon. Griff Walker, guest speaker.
- Calvary Church, New Augusta, will have a baptistry dedication service Oct. 11, followed by lunch.
- Calvary Church, Columbia, recognized Buford Ashley as deacon emeritus Sept. 27, honoring him with a plaque to commemorate his 50 years of service as deacon.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Calvary Church, Newton: Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Perry David Neal, speaker.
2. Union Church, Tylertown: Homecoming, Oct. 11; lunch after morning service; Jason McGuffee, speaker; Phillip Alford, music.
3. Strayhorn Church, Sarah: 125th homecoming, Oct. 18; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Jim Futral, speaker.
4. New Hope Church, Leake Association: Homecoming and revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and singing, 1:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.; pastor Shane McGivney, speaker; By His Grace, music; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ross Holleyman, speaker; Jeffery Jones, music.
5. Crossroads Church, Petal: 11th annual homecoming, Oct. 11; worship honoring charter members, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon concert; Faithway Singers, music.
6. Liberty Church, Newton: Revival, Oct. 18 - 21; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Freeman, speaker; William Savell, music; Hal Ethridge, pastor.
7. Cash Church, Scott County: Centennial, Oct. 18, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; M.L. Wallace, pastor.
8. First Church, Days: Homecoming, Oct. 18; revival, Oct. 25 - 28; Phil Glisson, speaker.
9. New Garden Church, Wakefield: Revival, Oct. 18 - 21; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Hal Hodgens, speaker.
10. First Church of Lyman, Gulfport: Revival, Oct. 18 - 23; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; David Evans, speaker; Wayne Malone, pastor; Louis White, music.
11. Bellevue Church, Thaxton: Revival, Oct. 11 - 16; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Phillip Caples, speaker; Sandra Smith, music; Tommy Inmon, pastor.
12. Sylvarena Church, Wesson: Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ruey Moak, speaker; Hubert Greer, music.
13. Beat Line Church, Conehatta: Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Webb, speaker; William Savell, music; Wayne Griffith, pastor.
14. Cold Springs Church, Collins: Homecoming, Oct. 18; services, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and singing, 1:30 p.m.; Brian Ivey, speaker; Phillip Butler, music.
15. First Church Bellevue, Hattiesburg: Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 10:15 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; 7 p.m. nightly; Jerry Roberson, speaker; Nick Davis, music; James Roberson, Sr., pastor.
16. Shady Grove Church, Hazlehurst: Homecoming, Oct. 18; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch, song service, and sharing; Jim Pender, speaker; Jason Lee, pastor.

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p. Date		9-30-09	

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PS Form 3520, September 2007 (Page 2 of 2)

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

The Hero Doing Battle

Mark 12:13-17, 28-31, 38-40

By Ken Anderson

In this lesson Jesus faced off with various religious and political groups. Today, devoted Christians often find themselves in a face-off between Christ's way and the ways of a Godless culture.

Face-off over Allegiances

12:13-17:

Previously, Jesus silenced the Sanhedrin's objections to His authority to cleanse the Temple (Mark 11:27-12:12). Further, He made them the villains in his parable of the Wicked Tenant and predicted their destruction (12:9). Because of Christ's popularity with the crowd, they went away to regroup and evidently developed another approach to trap Jesus.

Their strategy involved two opposing groups, the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Pharisees were orthodox Jews committed to the protection and practice of

the Law and traditions of the elders, and opposed paying any taxes to Rome. On the other hand, the Herodians were a political party of Jews with allegiance to Herod Antipas. They were willing to pay taxes to Rome, who gave them power to rule. Here opposites attract, especially when such an alliance could rid them both of Jesus.

Their approach was to first lavish Christ with compliments as a prelude to their real question. The motive was to "catch," "entrap," or "snare" Jesus in His own words. To set their trap they chose a "hot button" issue of the day - the poll tax (vs. 14). The poll tax was a required annual tax of one silver coin, a "penny" (KJV) or "denarius" (NIV). The tax was resented in part because the inscription on the coin, "Tiberius Caesar, Son of the Divine Augustus" was considered idolatrous and a claim to divinity.



Anderson

The weight of the tax question rested on the incompatibility of two opposite positions - loyalty to Roman versus loyalty to the law of God. If Jesus' answer was not in favor of the tax, He would be in trouble with the Herodians and the Roman authorities. If He answered in favor of the tax, he would be in trouble with the Pharisees and the people who supported Him. They thought it was a lose - lose situation for Jesus.

In response Jesus simply stated Caesar should have that which belongs to him. James A. Brooks explains, "The coin that was minted by the emperor and had his image on it was considered to be his personal property even while it was in circulation. Therefore it was proper for Jews and (later) Christians to return it to him" (New American Commentary, p. 93). The two areas, while separate, are reconcilable. Yet, whenever two loyalties are in irreconcilable conflict, then a believer's paramount duty is to God.

Face-off over Priorities

12:28-31:

In one day Christ had faced-off with chief priests, scribes, elders, Pharisees, Herodians and Sadducees. Here another scribe asked Christ a sincere question on the essence of the law. The scribes had compiled over six hundred and thirteen commandments. So which one of these was the most important? Christ answered by quoting the Great Shema from Deut. 6:4-5 as the greatest commandment (Vs 30). And the second commandment to love your neighbor was a quote from Leviticus 19:18 (Vs. 31). Christ extended the definition of neighbor to include everyone, even Gentile and Samaritans (Lk. 10:30-37). Further, these two commandments are to be considered as one. The love of God must be welded to the love for man if the laws of God are to be fulfilled.

Face-off with Hypocrisy

12:38-40:

The Scribes' responsibilities were to copy, teach, and explain the law of God. Therefore, their authority and influence were significant, so much so that

their explanation of the law grew to be honored above the law (Mark 7:13). It was true of some scribes that their fame and large egos led them to misuse their position. Christ lambasted them with scathing indictments: They were flamboyant in their dress, haughty in their desire to be recognized, vain in their desire for places of honor, criminal in their dealings with widows, and hypocritical with their long prayers. For these scribes their punishment will be more severe.

Insights:

Believers continue to struggle with the tension between the claims of God and the claims of Caesar. What belongs to Caesar? Oscar Cullman expressed it, "Do not give Caesar more than his due! Give him nothing that belongs to God" (James E. Wood, Jr., *The Nation and the Kingdom*, p. 46). Halford E. Luccok goes further, "We must learn to say to all swelling Caesars, 'Human life belongs to God'" (I. B. Vol. 7, p. 841).

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David revealed "the driving principle behind the blood sacrifice system: the giving of an animal in sacrifice must always be motivated and accompanied by the inner giving of oneself to God" (Robert Bergen).

In most of this Psalm, David focused on his own needs. Cleansed and forgiven, David looks outward. So must we. In the final two verses Israel's king is "confident that God has answered his cries for help and prays for the needs of his nation" (Bergen).

As we daily seek God's forgiveness for specific sins in our lives, know His promise: "If we confess our sin, He is faithful to forgive and cleanse..." Memorize 1 John 1:9. Consider Psalm 51 as a model of forgiven sin.

Remember, we are God's royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), called from sin's darkness to walk forgiven in His marvelous light! Jesus gives us hearts sprinkled clean by His sacrifice (Heb. 10:19-22). Praise our wonderful God!

Caughman teaches the Bible and sings in two choirs at First Church, Magee.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

When I Have Sinned

Psalm 51

By Ginger M. Caughman

David had been "Through It All" and learned to trust his God. Remember the location of Psalm 51 as a model for confession, repentance, and restoration! God forgives, cleanses, and restores repentant sinners.

Like Andrae' Crouch's meaningful words, let us sing: "I've learned to depend upon His Word" (1966).

God Forgive Me, 1-5

God is holy, and sin is serious (Psalm 5:4)! We studied Samuel last Fall.

You may want to review Second Samuel 11 and 12 for details of David's grievous sins. God's anointed King David committed multiple sins of lust, adultery, attempted cover-ups, and pre-meditated murder. God's prophet, Nathan said, "You are the man!" David realized his sin and cried, "I have sinned against



Caughman

the Lord!" (2 Sam. 12: 7, 13). In today's Psalm we read David's confession and hear his heart!

"David appeals at once to the mercy of God, even before mentioning his sin. Pardon of sin must ever be an act of pure mercy, and therefore to that attribute the awakened sinner flies" (Spurgeon).

God Cleanse Me, 6-9

Remember, in choosing David as king, God had insisted, "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). Here the Psalmist remembers that God "desires truth in his inward parts;" (v. 6) honesty in his soul.

"Cleanse me, purge me, purify me with hyssop," David cries to God (v. 7). What's hyssop (pronounce HISS-up)? David knew the history of God's work with his people. Branches of hyssop were used as brushes to apply blood to

the doorposts when the Israelites left Egypt (Exodus 12:22). Hyssop was used for purification (Lev. 14:6; Nu. 19:6). The New Testament explains the foreshadowing of the New Covenant in the Old Testament as hyssop was used to sprinkle blood (Heb. 9).

When we remember David's sin, Spurgeon reminds us, "to dwell most upon his penitence and the long series of chastisements of his life."

God Renew Me in Your Holiness, 10-13

"Psalm 51 expresses the attitude of God's child brought back by chastisement to a desire for fellowship with the Lord in an attitude of prayer. Having tasted the bitter results of self-directed efforts to hide and forget sin, the repentant one begs the Lord to 'blot out' his sins" (J. Wash Watts).

Rehearsing and singing with other Christians in a choir to praise God is a blessed experience. When Scripture is set to music an added blessing is

reading the words in the Bible and hearing the music play in the mind and spirit. All four verses sing in my mind because of an anthem learned long ago! O Holy Spirit, "Create in me a clean heart!" Antiphonal singing. Pause. Then the music changes from a minor key to a major chord ending triumphantly in victorious prayer, "O God."

Sing verses 10-13 unto God, making up your own melody. Conclude with the prayer of verse 10. Like David, we can confess sin. Only God can create a new heart.

"Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation." The Psalmist pleads with God (v. 12)! "None but God can give back this joy; He will do it for His own glory and our benefit." Charles Haddon Spurgeon emphasized, "This joy follows pardon and purity; in such order it is safe, in any other it is vain presumption," and Surgeon adds, "or idiotic delirium." ("Spurgeon on the Psalms").

David's Commitment and Sacrifices, v. 14-19

"...a broken spirit; and a contrite heart..."

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.



Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-5330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mcb.org.

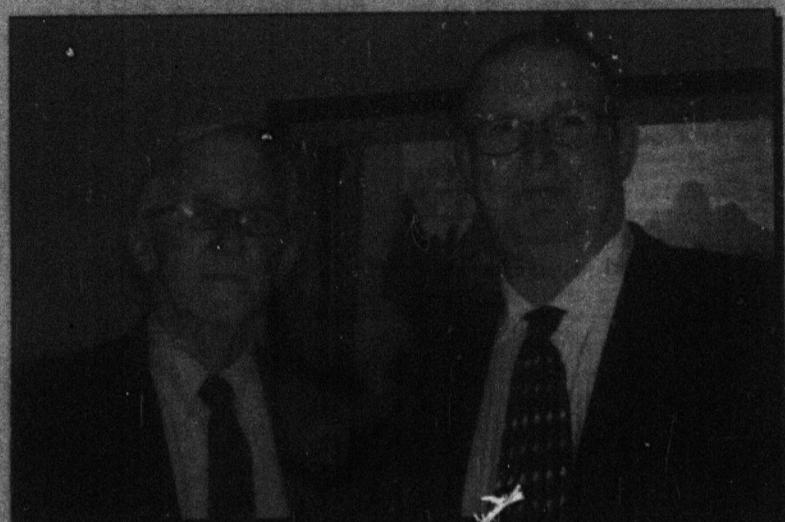
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Canaan Church, Columbus



2. Liberty Hill Church, Pope



3. Faith Church, Amory



4. First Church, Magnolia



5. Magee's Creek Church, Walthall County

1. Canaan Church, Columbus, licensed John R. Hill to the ministry Sept. 20. Shown are pastor John "PJ" Mortensen and Hill.

2. Liberty Hill Church, Pope, recently honored Louis Snider with a plaque in recognition of 45 years perfect Sunday School attendance. Shown are pastor Jay Anderson, Snider, and Roger Crosswhite.

3. Faith Church, Amory, ordained Billy Hall as deacon Sept. 20. Shown are pastor Wade Cook and Hall.

4. First Church, Magnolia, ordained Charles Harvey and Dennis Anderson as deacons Aug. 23. Shown are pastor Barry Ward, Megan Harvey, Harvey, Anderson, and Melissa Anderson.

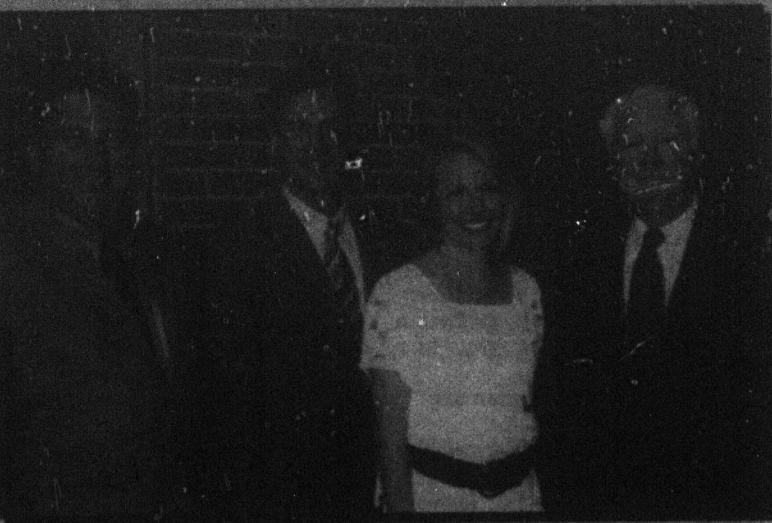
5. Magee's Creek Church, Walthall County, ordained Terry Reid as deacon Sept. 13. Shown are Klara Reid, Reid, and interim pastor David Millican.

6. First Church, Terry, ordained Andy Fullington to the gospel ministry recently. Shown are pastor John Pace, Fullington, Donna Fullington, and Robert Hanvey.

7. First Church, Cleveland, recently recognized four members for perfect attendance in Sunday School the last year. Shown from left are: Kent White; pastor Park Neff; Scott Brown and his children, Mykenzi and Nicholas.

8. West Heights Church, Pontotoc, held a note burning Sept. 6, paying off the family life center. Shown are the participants in the event.

9. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, declared August a month to honor Bill and Violet Hales, retired Southern Baptist missionaries to The Gambia in Africa. Each Sunday the couple shares stories and photos of their ministry. On the last Sunday of the month, a special offering was taken to help the church, school, and pastors in The Gambia that were touched by the Hales. Shown are Junior Davis and the Hales.



6. First Church, Terry



7. First Church, Cleveland



8. West Heights Church, Pontotoc



9. Williamsville Church, Kosciusko